

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 087854

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INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /005 R

66664

DRAFTED BY: AF/ S: DDHAUGHT

APPROVED BY: AF/ S: JWFOLEY

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R 180345 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 087854

FOLL SENT ACTION ABIDJAN ADDIS ABABA CONAKRY DAKAR GABORONE KHARTOUM

KINSHASA LONDON LUSAKA MONROVIA NAIROBI PARIS RABAT YAOUNDE USUN

INFO CAPE TOWN PRETORIA LAGOS FROM SECSTATE 09 MAY 73 REPEATED TO
YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 087854

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, SF, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA IN SC

REFERENCE: A. CAPE TOWN 315; B. USUN 1633; C. USUN 1669
(NOTAL)

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. REFTELS A AND B, BEING REPEATED AF ACTION POSTS, GIVE
SUBSTANCE OF UNSYG' S REPORT TO SECURITY OUNCIL ON LATEST
ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA ON FUTURE OF
NAMIBIA. IN BRIEF, SOUTH AFRICAN POSITION IS STILL SHORT
OF UN DEMANDS ALTHOUGH SOME PROGRESS IS BEING MADE. HOW-
EVER, THERE APPEARS TO BE CONSIDERABLE DOUBT THAT AFRICAN
MEMBERS OF UN WILL CONCLUDE THAT SUFFICIENT PROGRESS HAS
BEEN MADE TO WARRANT CONTINUATION OF SYG' S EFFORTS. IN
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 087854

ABSENCE SOME MEASURE OF AFRICAN SUPPORT, SECURITY COUNCIL
IS NOT LIKELY TO AUTHORIZE SYG TO CONTINUE TALKS.

2. DEPT. CONCURS IN VIEWS OF USUN AND AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

THAT U. S. INTERESTS WOULD BE SERVED BY CONTINUATION OF SYG' S EFFORTS. ONLY ALTERNATIVE WOULD APPEAR TO BE STERILE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN AFS AND SAG. OUR IMMEDIATE CONCERN IS THAT AFS MAY ADOPT HARD LINE AT UPCOMING OAU MEETING AND LOCK THEMSELVES INTO POSITION OF OPPOSING CONTINUATION OF SYG' S EFFORTS. DEPT. THEREFORE REQUESTS AF ACTION POST AMBASSADORS OR CHARGES APPROACH HOST GOVERNMENTS AT APPROPRIATE LEVELS AND EXPRESS OUR VIEWS ALONG LINES FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH. SOME GOVERNMENTS MAY NOT HAVE TEXT SYG' S REPORT BUT IMMINENCE OF OAU MEETING MAY 17 MAKES APPROACHES NECESSARY ASAP.

3. A. WHILE RECOGNIZING MUCH HAS YET TO BE ACHIEVED, WE BELIEVE SIGNIFICANT BENEFITS HAVE ALREADY BEEN DERIVED FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL' S INITIATIVE ON NAMIBIA:

-- THE VISITS TO NAMIBIA BY WALDHEIM AND HIS REPRESENTATIVE MADE POSSIBLE EXTENSIVE DIRECT CONTACTS BETWEEN THE UN AND THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY AND PERMITTED THE PEOPLE TO SET FORTH THEIR VIEWS AT FIRST HAND.

-- THE VISITS CONSTITUTED, AD INTERIM, A UN PRESENCE IN THE TERRITORY. IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO BUILD ON THIS WITH A VIEW TO ESTABLISHING A MORE PERMANENT UN PRESENCE THERE.

-- SOUTH AFRICAN ACCEPTANCE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL' S INITIATIVE IMPLIES THAT THEY RECOGNIZE A UN RESPONSIBILITY IN RESOLVING THE PROBLEM OF NAMIBIA.

-- THE DIRECT FOCUS OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL' S ATTENTION ON NAMIBIA MAY HAVE HAD A RESTRAINING INFLUENCE ON THE SAG IN THE CONTEXT OF THE APPLICATION OF SECURITY MEASURES AND THE PURSUIT OF THE HOMELANDS POLICY.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 087854

-- NOW THE SAG IS MAKING CONCESSIONS IN THE AREAS OF FREEDOM OF SPEECH, POLITICAL ACTIVITY, AND FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IS WILLING TO DISCUSS THE TERRITORY AS A WHOLE.

B. WE AGREE THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT' S POSITION AS EXPRESSED TO THE SYG DOES NOT MEET FULL UN REQUIREMENTS. THIS IS ESPECIALLY SO IN TWO IMPORTANT RESPECTS: SOUTH AFRICA HAS NOT ACCEPTED THE UN' S DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE TERRITORY AND HAS NOT AGREED TO WITHDRAW ITS ADMINISTRATION. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT SAG HAS ONLY SLOWLY AND RELUCTANTLY MADE ANY CONCESSIONS AT ALL, AND EVEN THESE SMALL STEPS

HAVE BEEN TAKEN ONLY UNDER SUSTAINED PRESSURES.

C. WE BELIEVE PROPER COURSE FOR THE UN IS TO CONTINUE TO ASSERT ITS RESPONSIBILITY FOR NAMIBIA AND TO CALL UPON THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TO RECOGNIZE THAT RESPONSIBILITY. THE UNITED STATES SHALL CONTINUE TO FAVOR PEACEFUL AND PRACTICAL MEASURES TOWARD THESE ENDS.

WE WOULD EXPECT THAT CRITICISM OF SOUTH AFRICA FOR ITS FAILURE TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING SHALL CONTINUE. WE DO NOT, HOWEVER, BELIEVE IT IS NECESSARY TO DISCARD GAINS ACHIEVED BY SYG IN ORDER TO CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN PRESSURE ON SAG. THEREFORE WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE CRITICISM OF SAG DIVORCED FROM ISSUE OF CONTINUING SYG' S ROLE.

D. FOR THESE REASONS, WE BELIEVE SECURITY COUNCIL SUPPORT SHOULD BE GIVEN TO CONTINUATI

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 02 APR 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE087854
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AF/ S: DDHAUGHT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730559/abqcdzzy.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. CAPE TOWN 315; B. USUN 1633; C. USUN 1669 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 07 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Jan-2002 by willialc>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA IN SC
TAGS: PFOR, UN, SF, WA
To: TUNIS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005